



Submitted via email: [Jeanie.Riddle@senate.mo.gov](mailto:Jeanie.Riddle@senate.mo.gov)

March 7, 2022

The Honorable Jeanie Riddle  
Chair  
Professional Registration Committee  
Missouri Senate  
201 West Capitol Avenue  
Jefferson City, MO 65101

RE: SB 978

Dear Senator Riddle and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association, I write to support SB 978, which adopts the Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology Interstate Compact (ASLP-IC).

The American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA) is the national professional, scientific, and credentialing association for 223,000 members and affiliates who are audiologists; speech-language pathologists; speech, language, and hearing scientists; audiology and speech-language pathology support personnel; and students. Over 4,500 ASHA members reside in Missouri.<sup>1</sup>

ASHA members often have difficulty obtaining multiple state licenses to practice due to administrative burdens. These burdens hinder their ability to provide quality services and restrict consumer access in underserved and rural communities. I am pleased to support SB 978, which will address these issues by:

- increasing access to care for patients, clients, and/or students; and
- facilitating continuity of care when patients, clients, and/or students relocate or travel to another state, specifically with members of the military and their spouses.

Passage of this bill would allow Missouri to enjoy the same benefits of the 15 other ASLP-IC member states, including neighboring states Kansas, Kentucky, Nebraska, and Oklahoma. The United States Department of Defense and the Missouri Speech-Language-Hearing Association join ASHA in supporting SB 978.

In addition, ASHA supports the bill's reinstatement of the clinical fellowship (CF) requirement for licensure in Missouri. The CF allows new graduates to have a mentored experience during their first year of employment; it is also required for ASHA certification, the recognized national standard for audiologists and speech-language pathologists (SLPs). Every state—except Missouri and North Dakota—requires completion of a clinical fellowship for licensure. ASHA also supports a provisional license for CFs, which allows them to practice in any setting. Without the clinical fellowship requirement, Missouri would not be able to participate in the ASLP-IC.

Thank you for your consideration of ASHA's position to support SB 978. If you or your staff have any questions, please contact Susan Adams, ASHA's director of state legislative and regulatory affairs, at [sadams@asha.org](mailto:sadams@asha.org).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Judy Rich". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "J".

Judy Rich, EdD, CCC-SLP, BCS-CL  
2022 ASHA President

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<sup>1</sup>American Speech-Language-Hearing Association. (2021). *Missouri* [Quick Facts]  
<https://www.asha.org/siteassets/uploadedfiles/missouri-state-flyer.pdf>.